

## **TOWN BOARD**

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a meeting on Monday, May 9, 2011 at Town Hall, 254 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY at 7:00pm.

PRESENT:	Edward Magryta	----	Supervisor
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	Laurie R. Tautel	----	Council Member
	Mervin R. Livsey, Jr.	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Supervisor Magryta opened the meeting at 7:10pm.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ann Marie Feducia stated that she had attended a Village Board meeting and was questioned why she was there.

### **MINUTES**

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to approve the minutes from the April 4 and April 11 meetings.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel)**  
**0-nays**

### **AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to approve the A/P Register dated 3/11/11 for the amount of \$239,155.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel)**  
**0-nays**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to approve the A/P Register dated 3/25/11 for the amount of \$440,554.42.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel)**  
**0-nays**

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Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to approve the A/P Register dated 4/8/11 for the amount of \$54,405.39.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel)  
0-nays**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to approve the A/P Register dated 4/15/11 for the amount of \$3,012.66.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel)  
0-nays**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to approve the A/P Register dated 4/22/11 for the amount of \$61,606.59.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel)  
0-nays**

Supervisor Magryta said that Comptroller Blauvelt is working on a forecast for expenditures and it should be ready in June.

### **AUD REVIEW**

Supervisor Magryta said after a lot of work, the Town is in compliance with the State report filings. The Supervisor asked Comptroller Blauvelt to brief everyone on her findings.

Comptroller Blauvelt stated that the AUD was filed last Friday for the first time in many years and that she has already heard back from the State.

Supervisor Magryta asked Comptroller Blauvelt if she was happy with the appraisal company that the Town hired.

Comptroller Blauvelt said that she was. Ms. Blauvelt said that they are very quick and efficient.

Supervisor Magryta asked about the cash audits.

Comptroller Blauvelt said that they are complete.

### **OUTSTANDING ENGINEERING BILLS**

Supervisor Magryta said there are some outstanding engineering bills from 2009 and he needs more information since he wasn't the Supervisor back then.

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Council Member Tautel stated that she had previously brought up five bills that were in question.

Comptroller Blauvelt said that those bills are in process and that the Town should pay them and seek reimbursement from the Settlement Master after.

Supervisor Magryta mentioned a check that was received in 2009.

Mr. Rider said that the engineering bills are from after receipt of that check.

Supervisor Magryta agreed with Comptroller Blauvelt to pay the bills and seek reimbursement from the Settlement Master after.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to pay a total of \$9,368.50 for the outstanding engineering bills.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel)**  
**0-nays**

### **APPOINTMENT REQUEST – TOH JUSTICE COURT**

Council Member Tautel received a letter from the Town Justices informing her that Court Clerk Nancy Marshallis was resigning. The Justices asked that the Board hire Christine McCormick at a salary of \$34,000 for six months and then raise the salary to \$35,000.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to ratify the decision of the Town Justices to hire Christine McCormick at a salary of \$34,000 for six months and \$35, 000 after that.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Livsey, Tautel)**  
**0-nays**

Supervisor Magryta thanked Nancy Marshallis for her service and welcomed Christine McCormick.

### **CAP – FINAL REVIEW**

Supervisor Magryta said that the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) will be sent out tomorrow and he would like to make sure all questions have been answered.

The Comptroller and the Board went over the Corrective Action Plan and recommended some changes.

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Supervisor Magryta said the response letter will be listed by number with the recommendations. The Supervisor said he will clean it up and get it in the mail by tomorrow or Wednesday.

Supervisor Magryta would like the Board to go into executive session.

Council Member Edsall suggested that the Supervisor allow Public Comment before going into executive session.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Greg Madigan thanked the Board for the job they are doing. Mr. Madigan also said that he would like to see, in writing, that the Village debt would not become part of the Town debt.

Supervisor Magryta said that the debt services would have to be factored in. The Supervisor also said that the only entity that can be created or dissolved is a Village.

Council Member Edsall said that a 1973 study recommended a Super Village, but the decision would be up to the Village residents.

Supervisor Magryta said that ultimately the Village makes this decision and if the Village dissolves, the Town must entertain their duties.

Pharoby Ripa would like the Board to focus on the smaller issues, other than consolidation.

Council Member Livsey said that the Village is in the process of interviewing for a Police Chief and he would like to get with the Village on what they are doing and possibly consolidate some services.

June Gunza encouraged the Town Board to sit with the Village Board to discuss services that could be merged.

Frank Cassano asked about his sewer bill.

Supervisor Magryta explained how the sewer bill is calculated.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to go into executive session to discuss: 1) proposed, pending or current litigation; 2) the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation; and (3) matters relating to collective negotiations under the Taylor Law. Board went into executive session at 9:25pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)**  
**0-nays**

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to close the executive session. Executive session closed at 11:30pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)**  
**0-nays**

**OUTSTANDING SALARIES ISSUE**

Supervisor Magryta said that the level of demand and the great work that has been done by the Comptroller has brought the Board to two positions for compensation. The Supervisor stated that the Comptroller's current salary is \$63,081.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Supervisor Magryta to set the Comptroller's salary at \$68,000 retroactive to the beginning of the year.

**MOTION DEFEATED: 2-ayes (Magryta, Gokey)**  
**\*\*\*\* 3-nays (Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)**

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to make a one-time payment to the Comptroller of \$5,000 to compensate her for the extra duties in preparing the AUD.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)**  
**0-nays**

**CONSOLIDATION LETTER**

Supervisor Magryta asked the Board if they had anything to add in reference to consolidation.

Council Member Tautel said she would like to have the Town Board and Village Board get together and discuss some issues.

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Supervisor Magryta asked what issues would be discussed.

Council Member Tautel said that Recreation, Planning Board, Parks and 911 Dispatching could be discussed.

## **WORKSHOP**

Supervisor Magryta asked if the Board had any items for the workshop besides the clothing containers and the consolidation issue.

Council Member Tautel would like the Board to draft a letter and try to get a meeting set up with the Village.

Council Member Edsall said that Capt. Stroppel has asked for some time at the workshop.

Council Member Livsey would like to discuss Brooks Park.

Council Member Tautel would like to discuss the Building Department.

Supervisor Magryta said that letters have been sent out to prospective Police Chiefs and the Board will discuss the interview process at the workshop.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:45pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)**  
**0-nays**

Attest,